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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jose M. G.-M. ) RE: **RESPONSE**  
Freire, et al. )  
)  
) Date: March 28, 2003  
Serial No.: 09/829,779 )  
) Examiner: A. Pryor  
Filed: April 10, 2001 )  
) Group Art Unit: 1616  
For: "Growth . . ." )  
) Our Ref: 618736-3/JP/B-4158  
)

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C., 20231

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APR 10 2003

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action that was mailed on January 29, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the prosecution history of the above-identified application without prejudice or disclaimer.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace currently pending Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14-45, and 47-60 with amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14-45, and 47-60, which are set forth in the enclosed Appendix F. (Appendix G,